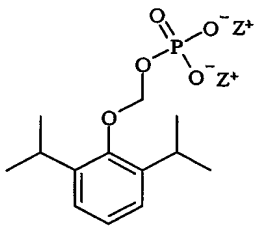
WE CLAIM:

1. A method of treating or preventing migraine pain in a patient, comprising: orally administering to said patient a therapeutically sufficient amount of O-phosphonooxymethyl propofol disodium salt formulated in an enteric coated tablet or capsule, said tablet or capsule being specifically adapted to release said therapeutically sufficient amount directly into the gut after passage through the upper alimentary tract and stomach.

2. A method of administering a compound to a patient in need thereof, comprising: orally administering the compound in an amount sufficient to cause a pharmacological effect in said patient, wherein the compound is of formula I, and is capable of causing a substantially similar pharmacological effect when administered intravenously in a lower amount; wherein said orally administered amount is higher than the amount sufficient to cause the substantially similar pharmacological effect by intravenous administration of said compound; formula I being:



each Z being independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkali metal ion, and amine.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said compound is formulated in a solid oral dosage form specifically adapted to release the compound into the stomach.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein said compound is formulated in a solid oral dosage form specifically adapted to release the compound into the gut after passage through the upper alimentary tract.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said formulation is in the form of an enteric coated tablet, enteric coated capsule, a capsule comprising enteric coated granules or particles, or a tablet containing enteric coated granules or particles.

6. The method of claim 2, wherein said pharmacological effect is selected from the group consisting of: inducing or maintaining an unconscious state; inducing or maintaining a conscious sedated state; inducing or maintaining a somnolent state, treating insomnia, treating sleep disorders characterized by inappropriate wakefulness; treating anxiety; treating nausea or vomiting; treating itching associated with a pruritic condition; treating an epileptic condition; treating migraine pain; treating cluster headaches, treating refractory headaches, treating other acute headaches, treating trigeminal facial pain, treating dental pain, treating neuropathic pain, treating phantom limb pain; treating postoperative pain; treating inflammatory pain; treating neurogenic pain; treating arthritic pain; treating or preventing neurodegeneration caused by traumatic or vascular or toxic injury or by disease; treating spasticity; treating hyperekplexia; treating tetanus; and causing a muscle relaxant effect.

7. The method of claim 2, wherein said pharmacological effect is inducing or maintaining an unconscious state and said orally administered amount is from about 100 mg/kg to about 1,000 mg/kg.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said orally administered amount is from about 200 mg/kg to about 600 mg/kg.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein said orally administered amount is from about 250 mg/kg to about 500 mg/kg.

10. The method of claim 2, wherein said pharmacological effect is inducing or maintaining a somnolent state and said orally administered amount is from about 10 mg/kg to about 300 mg/kg.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said orally administered amount is from about 20 mg/kg to about 250 mg/kg.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein said orally administered amount is from about 25 mg/kg to about 200 mg/kg.

13. The method of claim 2, wherein said pharmacological effect is treating nausea or vomiting and said orally administered amount is from about 2 mg/kg to about 250 mg/kg.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said orally administered amount is from about 5 mg/kg to about 200 mg/kg.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein said orally administered amount is from about 5 mg/kg to about 150 mg/kg.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein said orally administered amount is from about 7.5 mg/kg to about 30 mg/kg.

17. The method of claim 2, wherein said pharmacological effect is treating itching associated with a pruritic condition and said orally administered amount is from about 2 mg/kg to about 250 mg/kg.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said orally administered amount is from about 5 mg/kg to about 200 mg/kg.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein said orally administered amount is from about 5 mg/kg to about 150 mg/kg.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein said orally administered amount is from about 7.5 mg/kg to about 30 mg/kg.

21. The method of claim 2, wherein said pharmacological effect is treating an epileptic condition and said orally administered amount is from about 2 mg/kg to about 400 mg/kg.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein said orally administered amount is from about 5 mg/kg to about 300 mg/kg.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein said orally administered amount is from about 5 mg/kg to about 200 mg/kg.

24. The method of claim 21, wherein said orally administered amount is from about 7.5 mg/kg to about 60 mg/kg.

25. The method of claim 2, wherein said pharmacological effect is treating migraine pain, cluster headaches, refractory headaches and other acute headaches and said orally administered amount is from about 2 mg/kg to about 300 mg/kg.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein said orally administered amount is from about 5 mg/kg to about 250 mg/kg.

27. The method of claim 25, wherein said orally administered amount is from about 5 mg/kg to about 200 mg/kg.

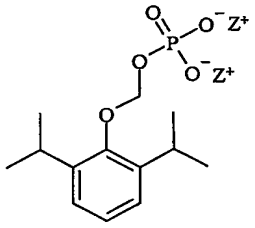
28. The method of claim 25, wherein said orally administered amount is from about 10 mg/kg to about 30 mg/kg.

29. The method of claim 2, wherein said pharmacological effect is treating spasticity, hyperekplexia, tetanus and causing a muscle relaxant effect and said orally administered amount is from about 10 mg/kg to about 350 mg/kg.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein said orally administered amount is from about 30 mg/kg to about 200 mg/kg.

31. The method of claim 29, wherein said orally administered amount is from about 40 mg/kg to about 80 mg/kg.

32. A method of administering a compound to a patient in need thereof, which comprises: introducing the compound directly into the gut in an amount sufficient to cause a pharmacological effect in said patient; wherein the compound is of Formula I:



each Z being independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkali metal ion, and amine.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein said compound is administered orally, and is formulated in a solid oral dosage form specifically adapted to release the compound into the gut after passage through the upper alimentary tract.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein said formulation is in the form of an enteric coated tablet, enteric coated capsule, a capsule comprising enteric coated granules or particles, or a tablet containing enteric coated granules or particles.

35. The method of claim 32, wherein said pharmacological effect is selected from the group consisting of: inducing or maintaining an unconscious state; inducing or maintaining a conscious sedated state; inducing or maintaining a somnolent state, treating insomnia, treating sleep disorders characterized by inappropriate wakefulness; treating anxiety; treating nausea or vomiting; treating itching associated with a pruritic condition; treating an epileptic condition; treating migraine pain; treating cluster headaches, treating refractory headaches, treating other acute headaches, treating trigeminal facial pain, treating dental pain, treating neuropathic pain, treating phantom limb

pain; treating postoperative pain; treating inflammatory pain; treating neurogenic pain; treating arthritic pain; treating or preventing neurodegeneration caused by traumatic or vascular or toxic injury or by disease; treating spasticity; treating hyperekplexia; treating tetanus; and causing a muscle relaxant effect.

36. The method of claim 32, wherein said pharmacological effect is inducing or maintaining an unconscious state and said administered amount is from about 15 mg/kg to about 500 mg/kg.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein said amount is from about 20 mg/kg to about 400 mg/kg.

38. The method of claim 36, wherein said amount is from about 25 mg/kg to about 300 mg/kg.

39. The method of claim 32, wherein said pharmacological effect is inducing or maintaining a somnolent state and said administered amount is from about 1 mg/kg to about 75 mg/kg.

40. The method of claim 39, wherein said amount is from about 2 mg/kg to about 50 mg/kg.

41. The method of claim 39, wherein said amount is from about 5 mg/kg to about 40 mg/kg.

42. The method of claim 32, wherein said pharmacological effect is treating nausea or vomiting and said administered amount is from about 1 mg/kg to about 50 mg/kg.

43. The method of claim 42, wherein said amount is from about 2 mg/kg to about 30 mg/kg.

44. The method of claim 42, wherein said amount is from about 2 mg/kg to about 20 mg/kg.

45. The method of claim 42, wherein said amount is from about 3.5 mg/kg to about 12.5 mg/kg.

46. The method of claim 32, wherein said pharmacological effect is treating itching associated with a pruritic condition and said administered amount is from about 1 mg/kg to about 50 mg/kg.

47. The method of claim 46, wherein said amount is from about 2 mg/kg to about 30 mg/kg.

48. The method of claim 46, wherein said amount is from about 2 mg/kg to about 20 mg/kg.

49. The method of claim 46, wherein said amount is from about 3.5 mg/kg to about 12.5 mg/kg.

50. The method of claim 32, wherein said pharmacological effect is treating an epileptic condition and said administered amount is from about 1 mg/kg to about 100 mg/kg.

51. The method of claim 50, wherein said amount is from about 1 mg/kg to about 75 mg/kg.

52. The method of claim 50, wherein said amount is from about 2 mg/kg to about 50 mg/kg.

53. The method of claim 50, wherein said amount is from about 3.5 mg/kg to about 25 mg/kg.

54. The method of claim 32, wherein said pharmacological effect is treating migraine pain, cluster headaches, refractory headaches and other acute headaches and said administered amount is from about 1 mg/kg to about 75 mg/kg.

55. The method of claim 54, wherein said amount is from about 1 mg/kg to about 50 mg/kg.

56. The method of claim 54, wherein said amount is from about 2 mg/kg to about 30 mg/kg.

57. The method of claim 54, wherein said amount is from about 5 mg/kg to about 20 mg/kg.

58. The method of claim 32, wherein said pharmacological effect is treating spasticity, hyperekplexia, tetanus and causing a muscle relaxant effect and said administered amount is from about 5 mg/kg to about 200 mg/kg.

59. The method of claim 58, wherein said amount is from about 20 mg/kg to about 125 mg/kg.

60. The method of claim 58, wherein said amount is from about 30 mg/kg to about 50 mg/kg.